

This Week In Torah... *Yom Kippur*

Our new Student Cantor, Margo Wagner, taught this wonderful notion. Thinking about what it was like to stand on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea, one can feel the anxiety and fear. Water in front, chariots with soldiers chasing from behind—but when the seas spilt, then the real miracle of faith occurred! Having the courage to go forward. Student Cantor Margo Wagner added that this is why the verse in Deuteronomy is so important: “It is not in the heavens, that you should say, Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it? No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.” Perhaps God whispered these words into the ears of the Israelites to coax them to go forward!?

We will read these words on Yom Kippur morning. It is for us, a chance to get a pep-talk from God and instill a bit more confidence and curiosity about who we are and how we live. It is the message that balances the need to have an introspection on all the things we seek to atone for from the past year. It is the remedy to build up the soul to strive to be better.

Take these words to heart: “It is not in the heavens, that you should say, Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it? No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.”

May you have a meaningful fast! And may you and your loved ones be sealed in the Book of Life for health and well being.